

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 HEW-08 EB-11 AGR-20 OIC-04 SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4330

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN ATTENDANCE AT WHO/FAO
MEETING IN WASHINGTON

REF STATE 121144

1. ROK PRESS JUNE 12 AND 13 RAN BRIEF FRONT-PAGE
STORIES ON TRAVEL OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION FROM NEW
YORK TO WASHINGTON TO ATTEND WHO/FAO CONFERENCE.
ARTICLES STRESSED THAT DELEGATION WAS IN WASHINGTON
ON UN BUSINESS. TONGYANG DISPATCH QUOTED DEPARTMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN'S CONFIRMATION THAT PERMISSION HAD
BEEN GRANTED NORTH KOREANS FOR THE TRIP AND SAID
BOTH USUN AND NORTH KOREAN UN OBSERVER MISSION HAD
DENIED RUMOR THAT NORTH KOREANS WOULD CONTACT USG
OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. TONGA ILBO STORY MENTIONED
THAT VISIT MARKS FIRST ENTRY OF NORTH KOREANS INTO
DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUILDING BUT POINTED OUT THAT THIS
IS BECAUSE BUILDING IS SITE OF CONFERENCE.

2. ONLY PRESS COMMENT HAS BEEN JUNE 14 CHOSUN ILBO
COLUMN WHICH SAID USG APPROVAL OF THE TRIP CAME AS
SHOCK TO THE ROK DESPITE DEPARTMENT ASSERTION THAT
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GRANTING OF APPROVAL DOES NOT REPRESENT CHANGE IN

US ATTITUDE TOWARD NORTH KOREA. COLUMN QUOTED ROK
EMBASSY WASHINGTON AS SAYING THAT SINCE TRIP IS
CONCERNED WITH UN BUSINESS THERE IS NO NEED TO SHOW
HYSTERICAL REACTION, BUT SAID EMBASSY OFFICIALS SEEM
CONCERNED OVER TREND OF WESTERN ALLIES OPENING
DOORS TO NORTH AT FASTER PACE WHILE COMMUNIST WORLD
REMAINS COOL TO ROK.

3. MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE NOT RAISED VISIT WITH
US EXCEPT FOR CASUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SEEM TO
BE TAKING IT IN STRIDE.
HABIB

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